

## Moscow Smears Blatchford

Sitting in his office on a recent Sunday afternoon, Peace Corps Director Joseph Blatchford became greatly amused as he began to pore over a radio report from Moscow on his recent trip to Africa. Moscow acknowledged that Blatchford was "sociable and well-mannered and creates a very good impression." What is more, he is a Negro [a fact that is news to both Blatchford and his parents]. In the opinion of those who appointed him Peace Corps director, Moscow blithely went on, "this cannot but appeal to Africans."



BLATCHFORD

The Soviets then got down to serious business. While Blatchford is both a "gentleman and a humanist," said Moscow, he is also "a hard-core spy from the CIA with more than 10 years' seniority" (also news to the Peace Corps director).

Back in 1960, the radio report continued, he came "out with the initiative, not his own, of course, but that of CIA, to set up a kind of organization of volunteers for working in the countries of that continent.

"This organization was to take up the problem of housing and liquidating slums. It was called in fact 'Accion.' But how did Joe Blatchford and his colleagues 'Act'? . . .

". . . Thieves and robbers were recruited by 'Accion' to form a gang for tailing progressive politicians, intimidating them, and sometimes removing them physically. . . .

"No doubt Joe Blatchford in his new role will try to mold banditism in Africa in a form favorable for CIA. Therefore, it is not surprising that he is planning to visit those African countries where the *declass*e elements are at their highest. . . .

"Actually, Washington has chosen a suitable leader for the Peace Corps—a paid agent of CIA and a specialist in political blackmail and assassination. Who could be better as a leader of the Corpsmen?"

Blatchford and Joseph  
Org 1 Americans for  
Community Cooperation  
in Other Nations  
CIA 2.04.2 Foundations  
Org 1 Peace Corps  
Those who know the new Peace Corps director are chuckling at Moscow's furious blast. Blatchford, in fact, is not a Negro nor has he ever been a member of the CIA. While head of "Accion," Blatchford, moreover, scrupulously avoided taking funds from any foundation that appeared to be even remotely connected with the CIA.

Moscow's real reason for assailing the new Peace Corps director, say knowledgeable anti-Communists, is that Blatchford built Accion into an effective self-help program for Latin American slum dwellers which radiated much good will for the United States. Some Latin observers have even referred to Accion as "preventive anti-communism." Fearing that Blatchford will turn the Peace Corps into an equally effective organization, Moscow has apparently decided to smear him with its mighty mud gun.

MORI/CDF